

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An article of clothing comprising:
a body-encircling portion having right and left leg portions and a crotch portion, the crotch portion comprising a first flap and a second flap each having a free edge, the crotch portion being positionable between open and closed positions, wherein when the crotch portion is in the closed position, the first and second flaps substantially entirely overlap one another to form a covering for an external vaginal area of a user, the free edge of the first flap and the free edge of the second flap are displaced from a centerline of the external vaginal area of the user, and at least one free edge is not substantially parallel to the centerline of the external vaginal area of the user.
- 2-3. (Canceled).
4. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the crotch portion is normally biased in the closed position.
5. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the crotch portion is positionable in the open position by an external force.
6. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the free edges of the first and second flaps are composed of straight line-segments.
7. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the free edges of the first and second flaps are composed of arcuate line-segments.
8. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the first and second flaps are polygonal in shape.

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9. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the first and second flaps are curved in shape.

10. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the first and second flaps are curved-linear in shape.

11. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the crotch portion is secured in a closed position by a fastener.

12. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the crotch portion is secured in a closed position by a plurality of snap fasteners.

13. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the body encircling portion is tight-fitting.

14. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the body encircling portion is stretchable.

15. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein the crotch portion has a length to width ratio of about 2 to 1 to about 10 to 1.

16. (Original) The article of clothing of Claim 1, wherein when the crotch portion is in an open position, the body-encircling portion has right and left leg portions.

17. (Currently amended) An article of clothing comprising:
a body-encircling portion having right and left leg portions and a crotch portion, the crotch portion comprising a first flap and a second flap each having a free edge, the crotch portion being positionable between open and closed positions, wherein when the crotch portion

is in the closed position, the first and second flaps substantially completely overlap one another to form a covering for an external vaginal area of a user, wherein the covering is anatomically-compatible.

18. (Currently amended) An article of clothing comprising:

a body-encircling portion having right and left leg portions and a crotch portion, the crotch portion comprising a first flap and a second flap each having a free edge, the crotch portion being positionable between open and closed positions, wherein when the crotch portion is in the closed position, the first and second flaps substantially completely overlap one another to form a covering for an external vaginal area of a user, wherein the covering is a substantially flat and seamless area that covers the external vaginal area of the user.